

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the last full paragraph on page 17 (lines 15-25) with the following amended paragraph:

The first step in the ~~deletion~~ detection phase is that all the data comprising the image to be vectorized is read at step 210 and each point is matched against the prototypes at step 220. This matching requires a decision-making process to reduce the total detection time. To begin with, for example, the colour must be matched and if it does not match then the point is rejected as not being a line point. If the colour does match, then other feature measure are used for verification. Correct detection of line points with minimum false acceptance is important since these detected points will form the basis of subsequent line tracing.